

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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KANSAS CITY, KANSAS, WOMAN SENTENCED ON GUN AND CRACK COCAINE CHARGES

KANSAS CITY, Kan. – United States Attorney Eric Melgren announced that **Deione M.** Burt aka Deione Smith, 33, Kansas City, Kansas, was sentenced today by Chief U.S. District Judge John W. Lungstrum to ten years and ten months in federal prison, without parole, to be followed by four years of supervised release.

Melgren said that Burt entered a guilty plea on June 9, 2003, to one count of possession with the intent to distribute crack cocaine and one count of possessing a shotgun in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime.

In December 2001 and January 2002 the Kansas City, Kansas Police Department was conducting a drug investigation into the sale of crack cocaine. During this investigation, a total of approximately 29.6 grams (approximately 1.04 ounces) of crack cocaine was purchased on December 20, 2001, and January 3, 2002, from a residence on N. 30th Street in Kansas City, Kansas, using prerecorded funds. On January 3, 2002, the officers searched the residence and found approximately \$3,000 in cash, including \$400 of prerecorded funds, approximately 15.4 grams of crack (approximately .54 ounce), and four firearms including a shotgun. The guns were found near the crack cocaine and the cash and Burt admitted that the guns were used to further the drug trafficking crime.

Melgren commended the excellent work of the Kansas City, Kansas Police Department and the FBI in this investigation and Assistant U.S. Attorney Terra Morehead in this prosecution.